MARVEL COMICS

THOR CAPTAIN AMERICA IRON MAN

AVENGERS

GUEST-STARRING the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

NEBULA™ TRIUMPANT!

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RYAN / PALMER

AH HAH HA HA HA HA HA

DID I DO THAT?

STan Lee PRESENTS:

THE FRANKLY FABULOUS FINALE TO THE SPIDEY-NEBULA-STRANGER EXTRAVAGANZA! BROUGHT TO YOU BY--

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SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM MORGAN FOR AN ELEVENTH HOUR ART ASSIST.

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A VENGEFUL GOD!

Oh, YOU MOST CERTAINLY DID, SPIDER-MAN, MY UNSUSPECTING TERRAN TOY!

YOUR RASH ACTION UNWITTINGLY TRIGGERED THE MEANS TO YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!

BUT PLEASE, I WILL ALLOW YOU THE HONOR OF BEGGING FOR YOUR LIVES!

IT MAY NOT DO YOU MUCH GOOD, FOR AFTER ALL, NEBULA THE FIRST WILL FOREVERMORE BE KNOWN AS--

WHAT HAPPENED?

MOMENTS AGO WE WERE ALL SPREAD OUT SEARCHING FOR THE INFINITY UNION!

WE HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED EN MASSE TO MY MAIN MONITOR ROOM!

AYE, AND THE THIEF NEBULA SEEMS TO HAVE ASCENDED BEYOND HER FORMER HUMAN FORM!

SERSI, ETERNAL MISTRESS OF MOLECULES, IRON MAN, MECHANIZED FIGHTING MACHINE, CAPTAIN AMERICA, LEGENDARY SUPER-SOLDIER, AND SPIDER-MAN, WALL-CRAWLING WONDER, CERTAINLY HAVE THEIR DOUBTS.

AS DO THE VISION, DENSITY-CONTROLLING SYNTHEZOID, THE STRANGER, MYSTERIOUS INVESTIGATOR OF GALACTIC PHENOMENA, GUNTHAR, NEBULA'S RIGELLIAN HENCHMAN, THOR, NORSE GOD OF THUNDER, AND STARFOX, THE LOVE GOD, EROS OF TITAN.

"I CAN SEE THAT PUZZLED, FRIGHTENED LOOK ON YOUR FACES. I LIKE THAT LOOK.

"HOW COULD THIS BE HAPPENING? HADN'T WE DEFEATED NEBULA ON EARTH WHEN SHE TRIED TO ABSORB THE ENERGIES OF THE UNIVERSAL COMPRESSOR?

"YES WE DID! WHILE OUR COMRADES WENT TO HER ORBITING SHIP TO CONFRONT HER MINIONS.

"WELL, I NATURALLY ESCAPED, AND THE BATTLE WAS CONTINUED ON MY SHIP...

"...WOULD THAT I COULD NOT REPAIR MY SHIP WITH BUT A THOUGHT--- I WOULD MAKE YOU PAY FOR DAMAGES!

"YOU HAD ME DEFEATED ONCE AGAIN WHEN THE STRANGER ARRIVED TO RECLAIM WHAT HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM--

"--THE INFINITY UNION! A COMBINATION OF THREE DISTINCT DEVICES WHICH COULD CHANNEL ALL FORMS OF AMBIENT ENERGY INTO THE USER!

"WELL, FAITHFUL GUNTHAR HAD RIGGED A FAIL-SAFE TO THE DEVICE-- SHOULD ANY TOUCH OTHER THAN MINE BESMEAR THE UNION...

"... ITS STORED ENERGIES WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE CHANNELED INTO ME!*"

*AVENGERS #314-317.

YOU-- RIGELLIAN! HOW WAS SUCH A TRANSFER POSSIBLE?!

I THINK NOT.

ANSWER ME NOW OR I'LL--

SFFT

OD'S BLOOD!

URK.

THIS... IS NOT POSSIBLE.

FOR A BEING OF SUCH IMMENSE ENERGIES AS THE STRANGER TO BE SO OBLITERATED-- ?!

THINK YOU'RE THAT IMPRESSIVE YOU SILLY LITTLE HALF-LIFE FORM?

WELL, PREPARE TO BE TRULY FLABBERGASTED!

VTT

-- REND YOU...

... LIMB FROM LIMB?

WHAT HAPPENED?

SFFT

Oh, JUST ME--

SSS

VTT

--SHOWING OFF!

UGGHH!☆

THE STRAIN IS TOO MUCH, EVEN FOR HIM!

YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT, NEBULA!

THERE IS NO NEED TO BARBARICALLY *TORTURE* ANOTHER SENTIENT BEING IN SUCH A *CALLOUS* MANNER!

WHAT MANNER WOULD YOU ***PREFER*** I EMPLOY, MY GOOD AND NOBLE CAPTAIN?

Oh, I KNOW...

SHYLIKV

THE *LIGHT!* WHAT *IS* IT??

PROBABLY MEANS LIGHTS OUT FOR US!

HOW ABOUT IF WE BRING OUR CONFLICT BACK DOWN TO A PURELY *PHYSICAL* LEVEL?

I MUST SAY, IT DOES HAVE A CERTAIN-- *VISCERAL* --APPEAL, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

I KINDA LIKED THE *SONY* VERSION, MYSELF.

TO MANIPULATE MATTER WITH SUCH *FACILE* EASE--

--IS BEYOND EVEN MY *OWN* ABILITIES!

WELL, LUCKILY, SERSI, YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING NEBULA *ALONE!*

AGREED!

AVENGERS ATTACK!

HEART ATTACK IS MORE LIKE IT!

NOW ISN'T THIS BETTER THAN SIMPLE *SURRENDER?*

SHE IS PREVENTING ME FROM ATTAINING *INTANGIBILITY!*

FSHANG

YES, FALSE MAN. THE BETTER TO *THROW* YOU WITH!

OOF!!

POOM

MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES, IRON MAN.

TO THE *FORE!*

NOW, DEAR *GRAND-NIECE*, ALLOW ME TO PIERCE THAT ICY EXTERIOR WITH A GENTLE *CARESS*...

NO, EROS! EVEN YOUR POWERS OF *PERSUATION* CAN NOT AFFECT ME NOW!

SHE SHRUGGED THEM ALL OFF IN *SECONDS!*

MY MOLECULAR BEAMS CAN NOT BREACH HER DEFENSES, CAPTAIN!

WELL, THEN--

YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YET?

"...IF THE "SUBTLE" APPROACH FAILED--

--LET'S SEE HOW I DO WITH THE "HAMMER TO THE HEAD" METHOD!

THWIP

DO YOU NOT SEE WHAT MY--

Eh?

FOOL!! WHAT DOES A BLINDFOLD DO TO ONE WHOSE VERY CONSCIOUSNESS CAN BE SPREAD ACROSS A GALAXY!?

FWASH

Uhm... REALLY PEEVE ONE OFF?

THOOM

THANKS, COACH, BUT WE'RE GETTING KILLED OUT THERE!

NICE TRY, SON-

WHAT SAY WE TRY A MORE --PEDESTRIAN TACTIC-- THUNDER GOD?

WHATEVER IT SHALL TAKE TO SMITE THIS DEMONESS!

OH, BUT IT *IS* TO LAUGH!

HUH?

POP

ZOUNDS!

WHEREFORTH HATH THE--

UH... GOLDI-LOCKS??

YES... IT IS TO LAUGH... AND CRY...

SHWOOF

...BUT I PREFER TO *VENT* MY FRUSTRATIONS!

ALL IN ALL, A FAR *HEALTHIER* ATTITUDE, I FIND!

SHE IS BECOMING *MAD* WITH POWER...

...AND WHEN SHE IS DONE WITH THEM... WHAT IS TO STOP HER FROM BECOMING *BORED* WITH HER FAITHFUL SERVANT *GUNTHAR*?

FALL BACK, GROUP!

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

WE NEED TIME TO CATCH OUR BREATH AND FORMULATE A *STRATEGY!*

AGREED. BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL NEBULA WILL GRANT US THAT.

WE HAVE TO TRY! HEAD THAT WAY--TRY TO LOSE HER IN THE CORRIDORS!

SHAFF

STARFOX IS *BARELY* ABLE TO *WALK!*

THEN *CARRY* HIM IF YOU HAVE TO!!

AHEAD! A CHAMBER BECKONS!

THO' THE GOD OF THUNDER DOES NOT APPROVE OF *RUNNING* FROM ONE'S FOES--

WE HAVE CHOSEN THE LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.

PUT YOUR *PRIDE* ON HOLD THOR -- WE NEED TIME --

TIME FOR *WHAT* CAPTAIN?

WHAT GOOD IS TIME WHEN THE UNIVERSE HAS SO *LITTLE* OF IT LEFT TO GO AROUND?

INCREDIBLE! THERE *MUST* BE A *LIMIT* TO YOUR POWERS, NEBULA!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD ACTUALLY *DESTROY* AN ENTIRE *UNI-VERSE!*

Oh, REALLY, NOW?

AVENGERS MANSION, MANHATTAN...

TWENTY MINUTES AGO, THE COSMIC CHAMPION CALLED QUASAR...

...AND JARVIS, THE TEAM'S ADMINISTRATIVE CARETAKER...

...WERE PRIVY TO A SIGHT RARELY SEEN BY MORTAL MEN...

THEY WITNESSED THE BIRTH OF A GOD!

IT WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN THEY COULD HANDLE.

Uhhh... MONITOR SYSTEMS... OVERLOADED...

...JARVIS... 'R'YOU OKAY?

I AM SHAKEN, SIR...

...BUT OTHERWISE UNHARMED...

WHAT HAPPENED?

OUR COMMSAT LOCKED ON TO NEBULA'S ON-BOARD MONITOR SYSTEMS AND WATCHED HER BECOME A... A...

...I'M NOT SURE WHAT!

JARVIS... DID YOU FEEL THAT??

LIKE EVERYTHING JUST CEASED TO EXIST!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!

I'M AFRAID, SIR, THAT IT MEANS OUR COMRADES ARE NOT FARING WELL!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE STRANGER'S SPACE ARK...

'TWOULD SEEM THE VILLAINESS HATH CHOSEN TO DISREGARD US FOR THE NONCE!

EVERY SECOND WE GAIN BUYS US MORE TIME TO FIND A WAY TO STOP HER!

NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS HE KEEPS ON PLUGGING AWAY!

EITHER HE'S THE GUTSIEST GUY I'VE EVER KNOWN OR THE CRAZIEST!

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT--

BY YMIR'S ICY BEARD!

DID WE CEASE TO EXIST FOR A MO--

IT'S NEBULA'S DOING!

BUT THESE UNIVERSAL SPASMS ARE NOT REALLY AFFECTING US!

WHAT COULD SHE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY THEIR CONTINUANCE?

SHE ALREADY HAS ACCOMPLISHED IT-- SHE'S SCARED ME OUT OF MY SPANDEX!

A MILE BEHIND THE RETREATING AVENGERS...

Ahhh... TO WILL THE UNIVERSE FROM EXISTENCE!

TRULY A PLEASURE *UNMATCHED* IN ALL MY LIFE!

BUT TO TOY *FURTHER* WITH THE MICE IN THE MAZE, I WILL AGAIN *BECOME* THE MAZE ITSELF!

PLINK*

NNNRRGHH

SHE HAS REINTEGRATED HERSELF WITH MY SHIP'S SYSTEMS...

NOW... WHILE HER ATTENTIONS ARE FOCUSED ON THE *OTHERS*...

...I MUST FIND THE MEANS TO *REVERSE* THIS POWER INFLUX SHE HAS AB-SORBED!

RIGELLIAN!

I KNOW YOU ARE HERE!

EEP!

NOW, YOU INTERSTELLAR *REMORA*--

--YOU WILL TELL ME HOW PETTY LARCENISTS SUCH AS YOURSELVES WERE ABLE TO *DO* THIS!

HOW DID NEBULA ABSORB THE ENERGIES OF THE INFINITY UNION?!

I--I WILL TALK.

"BUT MORE SO BECAUSE I FEAR *HER* THAN YOU!

"UPON PURLOINING THE INFAMOUS DEVICE FROM YOUR DOMAIN, WE PROCEEDED TO LABORIOUSLY *STUDY* IT.

"QUITE BY *ACCIDENT* WE DISCOVERED THE *FREQUENCY* UPON WHICH THE UNION TRANSMITS ITS *ENERGIES!*

"A COMPLEX *OPERATION* LED TO THE INSERTION OF A *BIO-RECEIVER* IN NEBULA'S MIND WHICH ENABLES HER TO *ABSORB* ENERGIES FROM THE UNION!

THE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE UNIVERSAL COMPRESSOR ON EARTH WERE DONE--

--SO THAT THE UNION WOULD HAVE *MASSIVE* AMOUNTS OF ENERGY TO ABSORB AND STORE.

AND WHEN THE HUMAN, SPIDER-MAN, ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED THE ENERGY STORED WITHIN THE UNION...

...IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO *NEBULA!*

THEN THERE MAY VERY WELL BE A WAY TO *STOP* HER!

COME, RIGELLIAN. WE ARE RETURNING TO YOUR MISTRESS'S SHIP!

SYWOO

DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE STRANGER'S ARK, THE AVENGERS HAVE MADE THE MISTAKE OF WANDERING INTO...

A WEAPONS ROOM!!

AND NEBULA IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF IT!!

WE CAN'T CATCH A BREAK COMING OR GOING TODAY!

HAVE A CARE, EROS--I WILL PROTECT YOU.

WE'RE BEING OVERWHELMED AGAIN, TROOPS!

LET'S TRY TO WORK OUR WAY OUT IN UNISON!

IF SOMEONE COULD LEND ME A HAND--

I'LL TAKE TWO HANDS AND A FOOT...

AT THIS POINT, MAYBE A BIG TOE AND A SPLEEN!

ZCHAKK!

DRAINING WHAT LITTLE-- RESERVES--I HAVE-- LEFT--

HEY--I WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT NEEDING HELP HERE!

Uhm... THOR? SERS? VIZH?

SOME-ONE?

Ah--TWO MICE TRAPPED!

BUT YOU, DEAR CAPTAIN, ALONG WITH THE ASGARDIAN AND THE ETERNAL--

--I WILL KILL WITH MY *BARE* HANDS!!

RETREAT, PEOPLE!

BUT OUR COMRADES--?

BACK! *NOW!*

AN *AIRLOCK* APPEARS TO BE OUR ONLY RECOURSE!

THEN *THAT'S* WHERE WE *GO!*

CHOON

EVEN IF IT BUYS US FIVE MINUTES, IT'LL HELP!

AYE, AT THE *COST* OF OUR FRIENDS' *LIVES!*

WE CAN *SEAL* THE ENTIRE CHAMBER ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL-

THOR, THE CAPTAIN *KNEW* WHAT HE WAS DOING. DON'T MAKE IT ANY *HARDER!*

MAYHAP, IT *SHOULD* BE!

WE HAVE ALLOWED OUR OPPONENT TO TAKE THE BATTLE TO *US* WHILE WE HAVE *FLED* LIKE HAGGLING TROLLS!

THIS IS ONE FIGHT THAT *WON'T* BE WON BY *FORCE* ALONE, OLD FRIEND--

--IF IT CAN *BE* WON AT *ALL!*

ABOARD NEBULA'S SHIP...

YES, I CAN FEEL IT NOW...

THO' YOU FOUND A METHOD TO MASK IT FROM EVEN MY STAR-SPANNING SENSES, I NOW FEEL ITS CALL!

IT SHOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO ALTER THE FREQUENCY TRANSMISSIONS...

...BUT AVERTING MAD NEBULA'S ATTENTIONS WILL REQUIRE SOME ASSISTANCE.

AVENGERS! HEAR ME!

NEBULA IS RECEIVING THE ENERGY FROM THE INFINITY UNION VIA A BROADCASTING UNIT IMPLANTED IN HER BRAIN.

WHILE I ALTER THE SIGNAL BEAM, YOU MUST REMOVE THE IMPLANT!

BUT THAT COULD KILL HER!

YOUR POINT IS--?

THE POINT IS THAT WE MUST TAKE THE BATTLE TO THE VILLAINESS NOW!

SKRITCH

THOR-- NO-- FINE THEN--

GET READY, PEOPLE --READY OR NOT--!

FOR VICTORY!!

FOR *FUTILITY* IS MORE LIKE IT, ASGARDIAN!

FSHHH

STARTING TO MAKE DENT IN THIS THING!

NOW, RIGELLIAN, WHILE HER ATTENTIONS ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED--

--I CAN NOT STOP THE ENERGY RELEASE--BUT I *CAN* REROUTE IT!

--EVEN IF IT MEANS DIRECTING IT AT--

--MYSELF!!

AARRGH!

SHYOOK

FINALLY!

GET READY, NEBBY, I'M STEAMED NOW! Eh?

NRRGUH!

SHE DOTH *WEAKEN!*

THE STRANGER'S PLAN *WORKS!* THE VILLAINESS BE TEMPORARILY DEPLETED!

SERSI-- *NOW!*

I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN!

I WILL PERFORM SOME *RADICAL SURGERY!*

AND REPAIR THE WOUND EVEN AS I REMOVE THE *IMPLANT!*

AAH!

Uhh...

NO.

I CAN NOT HAVE FAILED.

MUST ESCAPE...

THY GAMBIT IS *UNDONE* WOMAN.

SURRENDER WITH *HONOR.*

NO! I WILL NEVER SURR-- *ACK!*

NOW, *NOW,* NEBBY...

FRANKLY, I'D *LOVE* IT IF YOU PUT UP A FIGHT RIGHT NOW--

...CONSIDERING WE OWE YOU *PLENTY* FOR WHAT YOU'VE PUT US THROUGH!

ENOW, SPIDER-MAN!

'THO' THY SENTI-MENTS MIRROR MINE *OWN,* THE FIGHTING IS *OVER.*

LET THE *HEALING* BEGIN.

YOU'RE RIGHT, THOR. I KNOW, I'M SORRY.

THIS IS JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN I'M USED TO. I'M STILL A BIT *SHELL-SHOCKED.*

WE UNDER-STAND, SON.

THE SITUATIONS THE AVENGERS OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES IN CAN BE QUITE *UNSETTLING--*

AVENGERS! THE STRANGER... HE HAS BEEN BADLY *INJURED!*

MINUTES LATER, IN THE STRANGER'S MEDICAL FACILITIES...

THIS LITTLE RECHARGE FEELS GOOD!

I WISH IT WERE AS EASY TO GET STARFOX BACK ON HIS FEET!

I WAS BARELY ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE INCREDIBLE INFLUX OF ENERGY WHEN I TURNED THE ENERGIES OF THE INFINITY UNION UPON MYSELF!

THE RESTORATIVE SYSTEMS IN MY MEDI-LAB WILL SET MY BIOLOGICAL PROCESS ARIGHT!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK MINISTRATIONS!

THE YOUTH SEEMS... TROUBLED...

THANK YOU FOR HAVING TAKEN THE RISK AT ALL.

GEEZ... LOOK AT HIM...

...THEY PLAY FOR KEEPS DAY IN AND DAY OUT.

SO IT ENDS!

NEBULA'S MAD EFFORTS TO EMULATE HER GRANDFATHER, THANOS, AS AN AVATAR OF DEATH ARE FINISHED!

BUT THE INFINITY UNION STILL EXISTS.

THE PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE FOR THE DEVICE TO BE DESTROYED.

AGREED.

I WILL PERSONALLY SEE THE TASK DONE!

GUNTHAR-- NOW!

WAIT-- THE RIGELLIAN!

HE'S ACTIVATING SOMETHING ON HIS ARMOR!

SHE HAS TELEPORTED TO HER OWN SHIP!

AND SHE IS *ESCAPING* AT WARP VELOCITY!

HER INTRUSIONS ON TO MY OWN ARK HAVE LEFT IT TOO DAMAGED FOR RAPID PURSUIT!

THE CANNY WITCH IS *GONE!*

I WOULDN'T WORRY OVERLY MUCH.

IT'LL BE A *WHILE* BEFORE SHE THREATENS ANYONE AGAIN.

THIS DID NOT END AS I WOULD HAVE *LIKED.*

MAYBE WE SHOULD BE HAPPY WE SURVIVED!

MAYHAP NOT ALL OF US...

STRANGER, IF YOU COULD PLEASE TELE-PORT US HOME SO THAT WE CAN TEND TO OUR FALLEN TEAM-MATE?

CERTAINLY, TERRAN!

FARE THEE *WELL,* AVENGERS!

YOU HAVE EARNED THE *RESPECT* OF THE STRANGER --NOW AND *FOREVERMORE!*

YOU'RE BACK!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
Uhm... WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S A LONG STORY!
THOR, COULD YOU CARRY STARFOX TO THE MEDICAL LAB AND HOOK HIM UP TO THE LIFE-SUPPORTS?
UH, CAP, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D BETTER GO TELL MY WIFE I JUST HELPED SAVE THE UNIVERSE!
OF COURSE. LET ME WALK YOU UP.
SPIDER-MAN, I FEEL YOUR ABILITIES ARE NEEDED IN THE WAR ON CRIME...
... I JUST DON'T KNOW IF THEY WORK BEST IN A GROUP...
...OR AGAINST THE KIND OF MENACES WE FACE.
HEY, YOU'LL GET NO REAL ARGU-MENT FROM ME!
THEN AGAIN, YOU GUYS NEVER SEEM TO DO MUCH ABOUT THE KINGPINS OF THIS WORLD, EITHER!
I KNOW. AND MAYBE IT WORKS BEST THAT WAY.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, WE ARE HONORED TO CALL YOU A FRIEND, BUT I DON'T THINK BEING A MEM-BER OF THE AVENGERS IS BEST FOR YOU.
I'M FIRED?
WELL, I WOULDN'T PUT IT QUITE THAT WAY.
HEY, NO PROBLEM, CAP.
IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF A LOAD OFF, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
CALL ME IF GALAC-TUS COMES AROUND! TAKE CARE!
YOU, TOO, SPIDER-MAN!
WELL, THAT WASN'T EASY.
IT RARELY IS, IT SEEMS.
LET'S JUST HOPE TO-MORROW IS A LITTLE MORE RE-LAXED.
THE END

ZONE